

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, or claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) System for controlling the movements of objects in an automated or remote operated system comprising independent transporting means for moving a number of objects relative to each other, the system being providing with means for controlling the position and velocity of the objects relative to each other, wherein each object is related to an imaginary three-dimensional object having a defined geometric shape having dimensions corresponding to or exceeding the physical dimensions of the respective object in all directions, each transporting means is related to a stop distance needed for the respective transporting means to come to a complete stop, and a critical allowed distance is defined between the defined geometric shapes, whereby collisions between objects can be avoided by changing at least one of a speed or direction of movement of at least one of said transporting means when a distance between defined geometric shapes moving on a common axis corresponds to said critical allowed distance,

wherein said critical distance is dependent on the relative movement between the respective objects.

2. (Previously Presented) System according to claim 1, wherein the dimensions of the geometric shape corresponds to the size of the respective object.

Claim 3. (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) System according to claim 1, wherein the critical distance between two geometric shapes moving toward each other corresponds to the stop distance for each corresponding transporting means plus a chosen additional distance.

5. (Original) System according to claim 1, wherein the objects and corresponding geometric shapes are adapted to be rotatable.

6. (Original) System according to claim 1, wherein the geometric shape is rectangular.

7. (Currently Amended) Method for avoiding collisions between automatically controlled or remote operated objects having variable positions and movements relative to each other said positions and movements being controlled by a control system, comprising:

assigning a geometric shape to each object, said geometric shape corresponding to or exceeding the dimensions of the corresponding object, the geometric shape thus occupying a space corresponding to or exceeding the space occupied by the object,

assigning a stop distance to each object, said stop distance being a distance needed for the respective object to come to a complete stop,

defining a critical minimum distance between said geometrical shapes, and

when a distance between defined geometric shapes moving on a common axis corresponds to said critical minimum distance, changing at least one of a speed or direction of movement of at least one of said corresponding objects, whereby collisions between objects can be avoided,

wherein said critical distance is dependent on the relative movement between the respective objects.

8. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 7, wherein the dimensions of the geometric shape corresponds to the size of the respective object.

Claim 9. (Cancelled).

10. (Original) Method according to claim 7, wherein the critical distance between two geometric shapes moving toward each other corresponds to the braking distance for each corresponding object plus a chosen additional distance.

11. (Original) Method according to claim 7, wherein the objects and corresponding geometric shapes are adapted to be rotatable.

12. (Original) Method according to claim 7, wherein the geometric shape is rectangular.

13. (Previously Presented) System according to claim 1 adapted for use on offshore installations, especially for handling pipes in drilling operations, wherein said objects correspond to means for storing, moving and/or installing equipment in offshore installations.

14. (Previously Presented) System according to claim 13, wherein the installation is a drill rig and the system is adapted for storing, moving and installing pipes on said drill rig.